

### At Home Come in & Chat Awhile

—Ruth Raeburn.

Dear Olita:

It was real pleasant to hear more of your community circle, how much you accomplish with your fingers at that afternoon gathering and how wise you are in your leadership to keep subjects worthy of discussion for this afternoon outing in your locality.

You noticed, most likely, the account or notice in some of the newspapers of the death of one of Canada's great people

Frances Nickawa

On the last day of the year 1928 in the city of Vancouver, B.C., there slipped quietly away into the Great Beyond, Frances Nickawa, well known throughout Canada, Australia and the British Isles as the "Cree Entertainer". Two years ago she married a very fine young Englishman, Mr. Arthur Russell-Mark. This happy home was in Vancouver, and the welcome third member was Miss H. T. Riley known to the world as "Auntie" who had adopted her and brought her up as her own. Frances Nickawa was well educated and cultured to a fine degree, but she remained in heart a child of the wilds. She did not lose her love and admiration for her native North, though she never visited it from the time she was very small until she was a grown woman.

In 1923 she travelled up Lake Winnipeg and visited Oxford House and Cross Lake. She made a deep impression on the Indian people. In the Cross Lake Indian Church she sang in clear English one of her soulful songs, "He Lifted Me". One of the natives said afterwards "We did not understand a word she said but as she sang she seemed to lift us away above the earth."

Frances Nickawa achieved a very remarkable success as a concert entertainer and was well known as an interpreter of Pauline Johnson's poems. She did much to interpret the characteristics of the Indian race in the very highest and noblest sense. All the proud spirit and ineffable gentleness of the Indian nature were hers by heredity, to be enriched by the very beautiful religious faith and spiritual consciousness which were her outstanding attributes. She put her religious faith into simple practice and even when she was struggling to maintain independence as an entertainer, she faithfully tithed her income. When success crowned her efforts she gave very large additional sums each month to the cause of Christianity.

Certain theatrical interests both in this country and in England made her very attractive offers if she would go on the stage. Her consistent answer was, "Everything I have and am I owe to Auntie and to the Christian church. I shall remain true to them". She did and now she has graduated into the Master's service. It might be said that she lived her life very simply and the success she achieved was nothing to her in comparison with the Heavenly help and guidance she received.

The many people who heard Frances Nickawa will have pleasant memories of her talent as an elocutionist, having its foundation in the spiritual responsiveness of the maiden who could carry her audiences with her through every emotion and could sweep from a stirring appeal with scarcely a pause into that of exquisite tenderness. She had a dislike for meeting crowds

or being feted, and had almost a childish disregard for detail, her guardian who accompanied her, having to take an intimate charge of her wardrobe. She had great need of understanding friends and time for rest and peace.

No one can measure the influence for good that Frances Nickawa wielded and it can truly be said of her that

"Lives are not made of length of days, But of what we are and do, And the life that is lived to honor God Is long, though its years be few."

Perhaps, Olita, some of your members may have heard Frances Nickawa give one of her entertainments and will be interested in this short sketch of a life well spent. Yours, as ever, —RUTH RAEUBURN.

### The Rhyming Optimist

Thanksgiving

I used to think, in days gone by, Thanksgiving only came with bleak November's sullen sky and last leaves' gold and flame. With Autumn's pomp and pageantry forgotten, passed away, there came the household cheer and glee of bright Thanksgiving Day. Then all about the laden board heaped high with Earth's largesse of riches man had reaped and stored, loved looks gave fond caress. It was a joyous day of old; but not enough, I've found, for now Thanksgiving cheer I hold through all the glad year's round. And I have learned to prize each day the happiness it brings, a friendly line from far away, a flash of red-bird's wings. So daily from my heart ascends a paean on my way for all this bounty, love and friends: each day Thanksgiving Day.

The Wind

The white clouds scurry swiftly by like white-winged birds that sail against the blue deeps of the sky, before the rising gale. Tall grasses toss like angry seas, forever stirred anew, while branches of the willow-trees dance stately measures through. A windy day! Strange voices creep through each once-quiet place so naught can rest or sink to sleep upon the wide Earth's face; but ever moving, passing through upon some fruitless quest, the wind's wild messengers imbue the spirit with unrest. Yet joys upon these swift winds rise, and on their winged course they thrust old doubts and fears aside with glad, triumphant force. The boughs are restless sprites today that dance against the sky; the wind has blown my cares away with brown leaves swirling high.

ELECTRICITY DEFINED

Electricity is something that starts the Lord knows where and ends in the same place. It is one-thirty-sixth of a second faster on its feet than its nearest competitor, backyard gossip.

Electricity was locked up in ignorance for centuries until Ben Franklin let it out with a pass key, and since then it has been pulling off more new stunts than a pet monkey.

With it you can start a conversation or stop one permanently, cook dinner, curl your hair, press your trousers, blow up a battleship, run an automobile or signal Mars, and many more things are being invented.—Util-

One way to determine whether your carriage is correct is to pause in a revolving door and see where it hits you.

### The Ontario Legislature

1st March, 1929

Particularly healthy condition of Ontario's finances were never more strikingly exemplified than through the medium of the budget tabled in the Legislature this week by Hon. Dr. J. D. Monteith, Provincial Treasurer.

As a result of careful administration and watchful economy the Provincial Treasurer was able to present to the House a budget showing a surplus of \$228,000. for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1928, and to predict another surplus of about \$198,000.00 for the fiscal year of 1929.

Ordinary revenue for the fiscal year of 1928 was \$58,426,982.00 and ordinary expenditure \$58,198,746.00.

To create the surplus estimated for 1929 the Treasurer will make an estimated expenditure of \$58,608,000, and will receive an estimated revenue of \$59,426,982.

Increasing the gasoline tax from three to five cents a gallon—to follow up the principle that those who use the roads should pay for them—will net the government considerably more money to carry on the extension of the highway system of the province. It is estimated that the revenue to the Highways Department for the fiscal year of 1929 will reach \$15,500,000 or some \$3,700,000 more than last year.

Features of the budget were the payment of \$1,300,000 into the Treasury by the T. & N. O. Railway; the Hydro's payments of some \$8,000,000 in interest; and \$8,000,000 worth of revenue from the sale of liquors under the Liquor Control Act. Surplus assets of the province were some \$33,000,000 higher than its liabilities.

System of debt retirement instituted by the Conservative government has not been neglected. As a result some \$3,000,000 (Three Million Dollars) was applied in this direction. This makes a total retirement of \$6,000,000 since the plan was placed in operation.

Announcing that the government was making every effort to reduce the debt of the province the Provincial Treasurer stated that the government had lived up to its undertaking in this connection. In addition both short and long term financing had been carried out in splendid fashion, interest charges being kept well within control.

Interesting sidelight in the budget was the report that during the fiscal year 2,760,000 motor cars had entered Ontario to swell the tourist population. It was estimated that these tourists, in addition to the 11,144,000 estimated to have entered by other means, expended \$103,000,000 during the year with great benefit to all classes of the community.

During the year the Department of Education, under the direction of Premier Ferguson, expended something over \$10,000,000. Chief items of expenditure were grants to public and separate schools as well as Provincial Universities which amounted to more than \$7,000,000. In addition over \$1,000,000 was expended in advancing technical education.

Ordinary expenditure last year in the Department of Public Highways was upward of \$4,500,000. Outstanding items of expenditure were: County roads \$1,193,000; Township roads, \$859,000. Provincial highways \$1,867,000. Revenue from the department was substantial being approximately \$6,500,000 from the sale of automobile licenses; \$4,600,000 from the gasoline tax and \$500,000 in refunds from counties and townships.

Presenting his budget Hon. Dr. Monteith pointed out that loans to farmers at the end of the fiscal year 1928 amounted to \$19,500,000. Since the beginning of the service loans to the extent of \$27,000,000, have been passed on. Number of loans passed in 1928 was 1,567 as compared with 7,254 during the existence of the law. In 1928 loans amounting to \$5,670,000 were approved on property valued at \$13,000,000.

Position of the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission is reported as being exceptionally strong. Total indebtedness of the Commission is placed at \$200,000,000. Of this amount the Commission is indebted directly to the province on bond issues. In addition to paying \$8,000,000 to the government on interest the Commission has a reserve of \$35,000,000.

During a period of years there has been a reduction of \$3,000,000 in taxes which represents, practically, one per cent on the capital indebtedness of the province.

Gross debt of the province at the end of the fiscal year is \$393,747,000. After deducting assets of an income-producing nature the net debt is rated at \$173,793,000.

Supplementary Estimates for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1929, tabled in the Legislature during the week amount to \$15,071,001. Of this amount \$10,337,175, is estimated as the expenditure of the Prime Minister's Department. This vote takes in the estimates of the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission for the period. Some of the other votes to be requested of the House are Education department \$1,296,752; Public Works, \$1,934,747 and

\$157,010 for the Department of Agriculture.

Estimates of the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission provide for the purpose of securing an adequate supply of power for Northern Ontario. The vote is to care for the expenditure made necessary in the taking over of the Wabigoon Power Company and for the extension of the service now given by this company. It is the intention of the government to link up several power companies in the public ownership system in order that the settlers of the north may have the same advantages as the more densely settled sections of the province.

Estimates expenditure in connection with the Niagara System of the Commission is placed at \$5,566,407 for the year ending 1929. This expenditure is necessary as the result of the constantly increasing demand for power. Some \$300,000, will be expended on the Georgian Bay system; \$518,950 on the St. Lawrence and Ottawa systems; \$800,000 on the Thunder Bay system; \$400,000 on the Central Ontario system; and \$400,000 for general administration.

Of particular interest to the farmers of Ontario is an estimate of \$3,000 brought down by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of providing funds for the carrying on of the work in growing, exhibiting and advertising the fruit grown in Ontario. In addition to this sum \$1,200 is to be set aside to encourage the use of better seed.

Uncle Sam has outlawed war and is therefore suspicious other nations will bootleg it.—Brandon Sun.

### GOOD ADVICE FROM MOTHER OF SEVEN

Recommends Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Toronto, Ont.—"I began taking Vegetable Compound for nerves and other troubles and I must say I felt different after the first dose. I have been told this last six months that I look twenty-five, although I am now forty-seven and have had seven children. I have taken the Vegetable Compound regularly for some time and sleep well, rise early and feel young."—Mrs. MCKEE, 18 Laurier Ave., Toronto, Ontario.




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The minister dropped into the village barber shop for a shave, at the close of which he proffered the usual 10-cent price of the shop.

"I'll take it out in preaching, sir," replied the polite barber, refusing the offered coin.

"My friend," rejoined the minister with some dignity, "I haven't a 10-cent sermon."

"That's all right, sir," quickly retorted the barber, "Then I'll come twice."

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